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# ◆ DMR LOBSTER NEWSLETTER ◆

Volume 5, Issue 1

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Winter—February 2003

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## *Commissioner George Lapointe Reappointed*

Congratulations to George Lapointe who has been reappointed as the Commissioner of Marine Resources for the next four years.

## *Deputy Commissioner Estabrook Retires*

Penn Estabrook retired from the Department of Marine Resources on February 14, 2003 after 23 years of service to the State. Thank you Penn for your countless contributions to the fishing industry and marine resources of the State, for representing the Department before the Marine Resources Committee, and for serving for 20 years as Chairman of the Maine Fishermen's Forum Board. Congratulations and best wishes for a very happy retirement!

## *Welcome David Etnier*

David Etnier was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Maine Department of Marine Resources on February 28, 2003. David has a long affiliation with the Department serving in the Legislature for the past eight years; six on the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources; four of those years as House Chair.

David served in the 117<sup>th</sup>, 118<sup>th</sup>, 119<sup>th</sup> and 120<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature on several committees including Health and Human Services, Judiciary, Rules, Natural Resources, Elections and Appropriations and Financial Affairs. David initiated the task force that successfully worked with Maine's Congressional delegation, Governor King's office, State agencies and the public to retain Search and Rescue helicopters at Brunswick Naval Air Station.

David has vast experience in fisheries issues having served as Commissioner of Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, 2000-2002; Legislative member of Lobster Zone F 1996-2002; holds a U.S. Coast Guard Master's license; Board member and Treasurer of the Friends of Casco Bay, 1991-1996; Chief Engineer on Commercial Sword Fishing Vessel, Georges and Grand Banks, 1983-1984 and 1979; Sternman on Lobster Fishing Vessels, Casco Bay and Gulf of Maine, 1977-1979 and 1974-1976.

Prior to his Legislative years, David worked in commercial photography and owned and operated a foreign and antique auto repair shop. David currently resides in Harpswell with his wife, Maryellen Sullivan, and their son and daughter.

## *State Budget Shortfall*

Commissioner Lapointe reports that the impact of the \$1.1 billion dollar State revenue shortfall will be the reduction of \$1.9 million in the Department's budget for 2003-04, approximately 16% of the annual budget. This means that programs paid for out of the general fund will be severely impacted. Fortunately, the majority of the Department's budget is non-general funded. Consequently, the intention is to target specific general fund programs rather than reduce everything by a percentage. The end result is a proposal to reduce general fund spending through related personnel cuts. The positions are: 4 Marine Patrol Officers, 3 area biologists, 3 shellfish personnel, the fish pathologist and one custodian. The Department is also proposing to change 2 general funded lobster positions to the lobster fund, and 2 general funded urchin positions to the urchin fund. The final decisions will be determined by Legislature and there is an appropriations hearing scheduled on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> with April as the target to have the budget resolved.

## *Marine Patrol News*

The Bureau of Marine Patrol proudly took delivery in October 2002 of the *GUARDIAN III*, a 46' Wesmac, outfitted to meet the demands of today's fishery's enforcement. Based in Rockland, officers have spent late fall and early winter familiarizing themselves with the new boat. We have used her from Lubec to Friendship and she is proving to be all and more than we had expected.

The Bureau welcomed two new officers to join its ranks in December, after graduating from the MCJA 20-week class. MPO Norman Stanton is stationed in the Machias area, and MPO Donaldson Boord is stationed in the Boothbay Harbor area. They are both now in the field continuing with their training, as well as relocating to their respective areas.

Fishermen report egg bearing and juvenile lobsters in record numbers in the Division II area. The hot topic seems to be take reduction gear options. The Division offices have been inundated with inquiries of how to comply. Most fishermen want to comply and actively seek information as to the options. Marine Patrol is developing a booklet of Whale Take Reduction Gear Options that should be out to the public within a few weeks, as well as posted on our website. Officers will have this information by the end of February.

The first year of our Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) with NOAA/OLE and MDMR/Marine Patrol was a success, and we are now starting our second year under this agreement. Most notable in our first year, Marine Patrol provided to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a 35' patrol vessel with crew to enforce the whale take reduction gear requirements and other laws and regulations. The inspection of lobster traps by enforcement officers was well received by their industry. This effort resulted in gear seized and violations administered by Massachusetts Environmental Police.

Marine Patrol developed a PowerPoint Presentation called the Lobster Harvester Information, which has all the current laws and regulations, along with updated whale take reduction gear options. This has been presented at all Zone Council meetings, as well as many other locations up and down the coast. Please contact your local Marine Patrol Officer or Division Office if you would like this presentation brought to your community or group.

The Tom Roth case in York County was adjudicated on 11/6/2002 in Superior Court, where he was found guilty and assessed a penalty of \$7,200 for the illegal possession of 148 v-notched or mutilated female lobsters.

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### *2003 New Zone Entrants for Limited-Entry Lobster Zones Calculated*

As required by Maine's new limited-entry law (12 M.R.S.A. §6448), the Commissioner of Marine Resources has determined the number of new zone entrants authorized for each of the limited-entry lobster zones. Of the seven lobster zones, five zones have adopted regulations to limit the number of new zone entrants in 2003. The number of new zone entrants authorized is based on a comparison of the number of licenses in that zone in 2001 and the number of people who did not renew their license in that zone in 2002. Exceptions to the limited-entry process, such as medical and military waivers, are discounted from the totals for the purposes of calculating the number of new zone entrants as required by the limited-entry law.

Each lobster limited-entry zone has established an exit ratio to determine how many licenses must be retired (not renewed) in order for a new zone entrant to be allowed into the zone. Following are the number of licenses awarded in 2003 for each limited-entry zone based on the exit ratio for that zone:

- Zone B:** 3 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every three licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:3)
- Zone D:** 0 licenses awarded. Currently closed due to survey being conducted to review ratio numbers.
- Zone E:** 11 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every two licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:2)
- Zone F:** 13 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every three licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:3)
- Zone G:** 12 licenses awarded based on an exit ratio of one license awarded to a new entrant for every two licenses not renewed in the previous calendar year (1:2)

Since 1999, individuals who became eligible for a lobster and crab fishing license and indicated to the Department on a Zone Declaration Form that they would like to fish in a limited-entry zone were placed on a waiting list in order of their eligibility date. Certified letters have been sent to those individuals on the waiting list that are now authorized to purchase a 2003 license. These individuals have 30 days to buy their 2003 lobster and crab fishing license for that limited-entry zone or the next person on the waiting list is offered the slot.

Questions about the lobster licensing process should be addressed to Lisa Cote, License Eligibility Specialist, Department of Marine Resources, (207) 624-6549 or [Lisa.Cote@maine.gov](mailto:Lisa.Cote@maine.gov).

### *Seed Fund Release 2002*

Each lobster purchased and liberated under the Seed Lobster Fund was V-notched and individually tagged. The tag used was synched around the base of one claw, and will be lost at molting. Tagging each lobster required a significant amount of time by dealers, lobstermen and the Marine patrol. Although this was not a formal tag and release program, each Zone had a unique color tag that allows for very general indication of origination and movements. Another benefit of tagging was to allow fishermen to directly observe the return on the Seed Fund investment. Scattered reports around the coast indicated a general movement to the south at a faster than expected rate. We have also received reports of a limited number of lobsters found dead in traps shortly after release. DMR sea samplers recorded Seed Fund lobsters caught during sampling trips. This information may prove useful in determining recapture rates of V-notched lobsters in the future. As an example, observers were on a boat that caught a lobster released in Zone A that was recaptured in Zone C. This lobster moved a significant distance in a relatively short time (less than three months).



Zone	Seed Fund Tag Color
A	Orange
B	Blue
C	Green
D	White
E	Red
F	Yellow
G	Brown

### *Lobster Advisory Council Update*

The Lobster Advisory Council last met on February 12th. The Conservation Law Foundation gave their Marine Protected Areas presentation to both the DMR Advisory Council and the LAC. Other reports and updates included: Whales; the next Take Reduction Team meeting is scheduled in Providence, Rhode Island April 28-30. DMR is funding research work with underwater ROV's to investigate the underwater profile of groundline characteristics. Marine Patrol has been working with NMFS to develop a booklet demonstrating the acceptable gear modification options. ASMFC; the Lobster Advisory Panel met on January 27th and discussed the Massachusetts proposal submitted to the ASMFC. There was consensus among the Panel members that they strongly believe in the LCMT process and recommended that the Area 1 LCMT meet to work out any concerns. Areas 2 and 6 are reporting extreme stock declines. There was some general discussion about what is leading to the stock declines and expressed concern with overfishing, shell disease, increasing water temperatures and pesticides. Legislation; staff distributed proposed bills and an LD Tracking chart for this year's new legislation. The Marine Resources Committee intends to wait for all of the lobster bills to be printed, and to schedule a single public hearing for them to be heard. Additionally, the US/Canada Lobster Working Group met February 5th to discuss issues concerning the waters surrounding Machias Seal Island and North Rock, and Jason Joyce of Swans Island spoke to the Council about a proposal to fish an additional 325 tags in Federal waters. The next Lobster Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for March 19th at 5:00 p.m. in Hallowell, and the process of how the lobster seed fund money is spent will be discussed.

**2002 - FEMALE LOBSTER PURCHASE**

Dealer	Price	Pounds	Total	Paid	Liberated
<b>ZONE A</b>					
D. B. Rice	\$3.60	2,000	7,200.00	paid	x
D. B. Rice	\$3.60	2,000	7,200.00	paid	x
<b>Fishermen</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Pounds</b>	<b>Liberated District</b>		
Avery Scott	Corea/Gouldsboro	580	8		
Kristian Porter	Cutler/Lubec	450	1		
Wade Day	Bucks Harbor/Machias	450	2		
Ernest Kelley	Jonesport/Addison	1260	2		
Eric Beal	Milbridge/Steuben	810	6 & 7		
Jeremy Cates	Cutler/Eastport	450	1		
<b>ZONE B</b>					
Southwest Harbor Lobster	\$4.20	4,000	\$16,800.00	paid	x
<b>Fishermen</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Pounds</b>	<b>Liberated District</b>		
Jon Carter	Bar Harbor	450	2		
	Cranberry Isl	450	3		
	Sorrento	450	1		
	Southwest Hbr	180	4		
	Bass Harbor	450	5		
	Duck Island	670	5		
Jason Joyce	Swans Island	450	6		
David Lunt	Frenchboro	900	5		
<b>ZONE C</b>					
Vinalhaven Lobster Co-op	\$3.90	3,300	\$12,870.00		x
<b>Fishermen</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Pounds</b>	<b>Liberated District</b>		
David Tarr	Stonington	990	4		
Mike Sherman	Brooklin	1170	1		
Eric Davis	Vinalhaven	1170	7		
		3330			
<b>ZONE D</b>					
William Atwood Lobster Co	\$4.25	3,000	\$12,750.00		
***William Atwood Lobster Co	\$4.25	2,880	\$12,240.00		x
Less under the bid amt.		120	\$249.90		
<b>Fishermen</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Pounds</b>	<b>Liberated District</b>		
Mike Myrick	Cushing	270	4		
Jonathan Murphy	Friendship	540	3		
Gerald Cushman	Port Clyde	450	5		
Doug Anderson	Port Clyde	450	5		
(Guardian III)	Spruce Head	450	7		
(Guardian III)	Belfast/Searsport	810	11		
Woodbury Post	Spruce Head	1100	11		
Dan Miller	Spruce Head	1100	11		
The total number of pounds liberated is higher as result of many lobstermen liberating at the same time (1100 & 450 pounds were liberated as a joint effort.					

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Dealer	Price	Pounds	Total	Paid	Liberated
<b>ZONE E</b>					
Sea Pier, Inc.	\$4.25	3030	\$12,878.00		x
***Sea Pier, Inc			<b>\$12,877.92</b>	This amt was paid	
Fisherman	Area	Pounds	Liberated District		
Lawrence Durfee	Inner Hbr-Squirrel Isl.	200	5		
Monitor	Johns Bay to Thread of Life	400	6		
Terry Brewer	BBH-Mouse Isl-Capt. Isl	200	6		
Caleb & Larry Knapp	Damariscotta River-Pemaquid	300	5		
Guy Randlett	W. side of Southport	200	5		
Matt Parkhurst	Middle Ground-Western Bottom		5		
	Sheepscott River	400	4		
Monitor	Georgetown, W. Seguin	530	5		
Chris Coppock	Squirrel Isl - Ocean Pt	300	5		
<b>ZONE F</b>					
Fisherman's Net	\$4.00	3571	\$14,284.00	paid	x
Fishermen	Area	Pounds	Liberated District		
Frank Strout	S. Portland/Cushing Isl.	400	1		
Stephen Train	Peaks/Long/Great Diamond Isl.	400	2		
Lyman Kennedy	Cliff/Hope/Jewell Islands	400	4		
Vigilant	Clapboard Isl/Falmouth Shore	100	5		
Richard Yenco	Chebeague/Bangs Isls	400	3		
Elliot Thomas/Brian Tarbox	Cousins/Little John/Mosher	178	5		
Carl Anderson	Bailey/Pond Isls - Gun Pt	212	7		
Gary Hawkes, Sr	Mouth of New Meadows	238	8		
Brian Tarbox	Sturdivant/Basket Isls-Yarmouth	122	5		
M. Moody/D. McIntyre	Potts/Whaleboat Isl/Harpswell	400	6		
Sheldon Morse	Harpswell Sounk/Haskell Isl	186	7		
Vigilant	Mouth of Quahog Bay/Cedar	135	8		
Hawkes/Anerson/Gilliam	Sebasco/West Pt/Small Pt Hbr	400	9		
<b>ZONE G</b>					
Pine Point-Camp Ellis	\$4.00	2,000	\$8,000.00	paid	x
Pine Point - Pine Point	\$4.00	2,000	\$8,000.00	paid	x
Fishermen	Area	Pounds	Liberated District		
Pat White	York	1,000	4		
Dale Hilbourne	York		4		
Adam Hilbourne	York		4		
Chris Roule	Stratton, Bluff & Wood Isl.	1,000	1		
Timothy Bailey	" " "				
Peter Vaillancourt	" " "				
Peter Eaton		1,000			
Norm Nunan					
Peter Shaw					
Lauren Brooks	Wells Bay	1,000	6		
<b>Total Paid</b>					
			<b>\$99,471.92</b>		
Despite our efforts to be accurate, we apologize if this list does not include all participants.					
Thank you all for those who gave of their time and energy in this project.					

*Whale Update*

Maine Plan: Although there is not much good news in the world of whales to report, the equal protection of whales and the commercial fisherman continues to be the goal of the Maine Whale Plan.

Entanglements: During 2002 there were eight right whale entanglements and five right whale mortalities of which two are alleged to be attributed to the inshore lobster fishery. In 2003, there has already been two reported entanglements. It is important to remember that the Potential Biological Removal (PBR) for right whales is zero. The end result of these numbers, as well as outfall from the continuous complaints of the conservation community over the voluntary DAM action in western Gulf of Maine last fall will be debated at the Large Whale Take Reduction Team meeting this spring. The most persistent rumors are that the current Plan will be amended to prohibit floating ground lines and require breakaway links on all floating apparatus.

DAMs: Multiple right whales were sighted on Jeffrey's Ledge and Fippennies Ledge areas in November and December, which triggered two successive Dynamic Area Management (DAM) closures of two weeks each. Fishermen were originally instructed by NMFS to remove all their gear from the 1600 nm<sup>2</sup> area. However, high winds and resultant rough weather conditions resulted in NMFS adjusting their rules to make the gear removal voluntary.

Gear modifications seem the most likely means for equal protection of whales and the lobster industry. The current gear modifications do a very good job of reducing the entanglement risk of whales and endlines. However, NMFS and the conservation community are now turning their attention to potential risk in floating groundlines. Those lobstermen who already or are able to use sinking groundlines will likely not be impacted. Those who currently use floating groundlines will likely have to address how to reduce the floating profile. This does not necessarily mean the prohibition of all poly rope, but it does mean reducing its high floating characteristics.

Research: To that end, the Department is now currently funding research work with underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROV's), to investigate the underwater profile of all buoy and groundline characteristics. Federal funding has been applied for a coastwide survey during summer of 2003, and two pilot investigations will be undertaken before the Team convenes. The first is scheduled off of Cape Elizabeth in late February and a presentation on this work will be shown at the upcoming Fishermen's Forum. The second is planned off of Mt. Desert in late March.

Enforcement: Marine Patrol reports very high State-wide gear modification compliance, and would like to thank the industry for your efforts to modify your gear to become whale safe. Patrol has also recognized the inconsistency of messages given to the industry regarding weak links, and is working closely with NMFS to produce a definitive brochure that fully describes all acceptable gear modifications.

Take Reduction Team Meeting: The next TRT meeting is scheduled in Providence, Rhode Island April 28-30. The TRT includes representatives from all commercial fishing industries up and down the eastern seaboard, as well as conservation and governmental groups invested in the issue. Maine has one DMR and three industry members. The Department plans to host several informational meetings with TRT representatives and industry members in order to review any proposed changes in the Plan prior to the meeting.



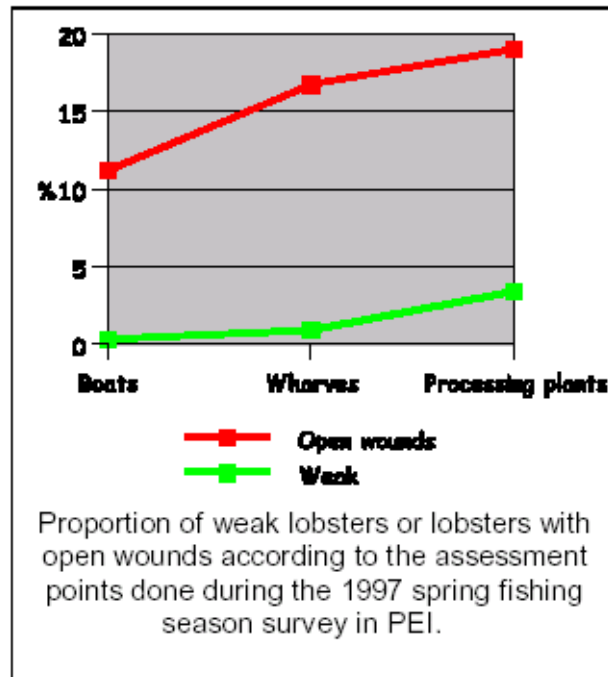
## *All About Lobster Health*

### *Consequences of Lobster Handling*

In a study conducted from May to July 1997 in Prince Edward Island, a total of 1,672 lobsters from 53 lobster boats coming from 11 different fishing ports were examined and tagged, while fishing and Handling practices were monitored. The tags enabled us to follow and reexamine lobsters at different Handling points in the industry.

There was a significant increase of about 8% in the proportion of lobsters with open wounds or active lesions and a significant increase in the # of weak lobsters (0.5% at the wharf to 3.2% at the processing plants) from the time of capture to the time of arrival at processing plants. Although these differences may appear insignificant, they still represent about 1.8 million lobsters per year in Eastern Canada that were healthy and strong at the time of landing, but had to be downgraded at the processing plants. The majority of the injuries occurred between the time of capture and the time of landing at the wharves, although most of the vigor loss (8 weakness) was between the time of landing and the time of arrival at the processing plants. Reducing the incidence of injuries is extremely important as gaffkemia ('red tail disease'), a fatal lobster disease, is transmitted through open wounds.

Also, using less care in the overall handling process of lobsters on board the boats resulted in loss of vigor. **Generally, tossing lobsters made them 3 times more likely to arrive weak at processing plants than lobsters which were gently transferred from traps to temporary storage units on board fishing boats.** Taking the extra time required to properly manipulate lobsters at every Handling point in the industry will yield a better and stronger product, which in return can only increase its value, and therefore the price paid to fishers, buyers and processors.



- Lobster fishers, buyers, pound operators and processors should be encouraged to Handle lobsters as gently as possible.
- Claw banding of canner-sized lobsters is encouraged, especially on boats where physical contact between market-sized & canner-sized lobsters occurs before measuring or grading.



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Prepared and revised by Dr. Jean Lavallée, Clinical Scientist, AVC Lobster Science Centre. © 2002. UPEI.



### *Federal Lobster Permits and Most Restrictive ASMFC Language*

As you know the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American lobster has adopted a variety of area-by-area management measures, which include but are not limited to minimum/maximum gauge sizes, escape vent sizes, v-notch definitions, and trap limits. In addition, the ASMFC Lobster Plan requires that all states implement and enforce the management measures in the areas under their jurisdiction. The Plan states that "Fishermen will be required to designate each area in which they intend to fish...Fishermen are allowed to place traps in multiple areas, but must comply with the most restrictive management measures of all areas fished, including the smallest number of traps for the areas selected." This year, the ASMFC Lobster Management Board has directed all states to put in place the necessary regulatory changes to implement and enforce all ASMFC management measures by June 2003 in order to fully comply with the FMP. It is important to note that failure to maintain compliance with the FMP would put Maine at risk of a federal moratorium on fishing for lobsters.

There are currently 1450 Federal lobster permits in Maine, approximately half currently designate multiple fishing areas. As you renew your federal license for the May 1, 2003 – April 30, 2004 fishing year, please be aware that if you select multiple areas, in the future you will be subject to the most restrictive management measure for **all** of the areas you have designated. For example, if you select both Area 1 and Area 3, the most restrictive minimum size for those two areas will be 3-5/16" (Area 3) when these measures are implemented, and you will have to adhere to the 3-5/16" minimum size, regardless of where you are actually fishing for the federal licensing year. For lobstermen licensed to fish only in Area 1, the minimum size would be 3-1/4".

The Department is aware of the historical and current use of Area 3 by Maine lobstermen and is in the process of determining most restrictive implications of an Area 1 and Area 3 designation. The Lobster Management Board is currently tasked with the realities of the Area 2 fishery collapse, but plans to continue the most restrictive discussion at their upcoming meetings.

Management Measure	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	OCC
Trap Limits/Numbers	Trap Cap (800)	Trap Cap (800)	Hist. Part.	Hist. Part.	Hist. Part.	Hist. Part.	Trap Cap (800)
Gauge Size (2001)	3-1/4"	3-9/32"	3-9/32"	3-1/4"	3-1/4"	3-1/4"	3-9/32"
Gauge Size (2002)	3-1/4"	3-5/16"	3-5/16"	3-5/16"	3-5/16"	3-1/4"	3-5/16"
Gauge Size (2003)	3-1/4"	3-11/32"	3-11/32"	3-11/32"	3-11/32"	3-1/4"	3-11/32"
Gauge Size (2004)	3-1/4"	3-3/8"	3-3/8"	3-3/8"	3-3/8"	*3-9/32"	3-3/8"
Gauge Size (2005)	3-1/4"		*3-13/32"			*3-5/16"	*3-13/32"
Gauge Size (2006)	3-1/4"		*3-7/16"				*3-7/16"
Gauge Size (2007)	3-1/4"		*3-15/32"				*3-15/32"
Gauge Size (2008)	3-1/4"		*3-1/2"				*3-1/2"
Escape Vent Size	*2 X 5-3/4" (2007)	2 X 5-3/4" (2003)	2 X 5-3/4" (2003)	2 X 5-3/4" (2003)	2 X 5-3/4" (2003)	2 X 5-3/4" (2003)	2 X 5-3/4" (2003)
V-notch Definition	Zero Tolerance	ASMFC	ASMFC	ASMFC	ASMFC	ASMFC	ASMFC

NOTE \*\*\* - If necessary provisions

### *ASMFC Update*

The ASMFC Lobster Board recently determined that Area 2 (south of Cape Cod) and Area 6 (Long Island Sound) fisheries are on the verge of stock collapse, and took emergency action at their February meeting to increase the minimum gauge in Area 2 to 3-3/8" by July 1st. Some theories causing the decline are overfishing, shell disease, and or an increase in the water temperature affecting the calcification of shells. In addition, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has agreed to comply with zero tolerance v-notching in Area 1 and to implement this compliance measure by March 15th. An alternate plan crafted by Commissioner Paul Diodati and his staff sought to apply uniform State management measures through a tiered-trap arrangement with transferability. Many Massachusetts Area 1 fishermen expressed frustration and disdain with this course of action, and continue to strongly support the current Area 1 Plan. Effective lobster management is dependent upon consistent management measures across the entire area.

Other news: Of the seven management areas, three of the areas have incorporated transferability as one of their components. Area 3 is discussing transferability, but Maine will not incorporate transferability into our laws and regulations. Additionally, Pat White was elected Vice Chair of the Lobster Management Board.





### *Zone Council News*

Common issues for all Zones include the student license tiered trap system, "Most Restrictive Rule", arrival of the cruise ship industry to Maine ports, the federal right whale requirements, aquaculture lease issues and new legislation.

**Zone A:** The Zone A Council met on February 13th. The primary discussion was to consider whether to close Zone A to open entry. The Council voted 6-1 not to consider limited entry. Members had an election of officers and discussed the gray zone. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 6th at the Bluebird Restaurant at 6:00 p.m. The Council will review the apprentice options currently available to Zone C and discuss upcoming Legislation.

**Zone B:** There was a large turnout at the last Zone B meeting held on February 11th. Discussion items included the New Zone Entrants for Zone B, Herring, the Most Restrictive Rule, Marine Protected Areas and the Area 1 Plan, along with the situations in Areas 2 & 6. The proposed tiered system for student license holders was explained. Senator Damon spoke about upcoming Legislation. There was further discussion about Zones having the option to spend their portion of the Lobster Seed Fund money towards research rather than on seeders or v-notched lobsters. There is also some talk about dredging in Frenchman's Bay.

**Zone C:** Zone C met on January 14th. They had their election of officers, reported on the Lobster Advisory Council, Area 1 Plan and Legislative Updates. Sonny Sprague also gave an Island Aquaculture Presentation. Marine Patrol gave a Power Point presentation called Lobster Harvester Information, which has all the current laws and regulations, along with updated whale take reduction gear options.

**Zone D:** The primary agenda item at the last Zone D meeting held on January 7th was to review the draft Limited Entry Survey question for the exit/entry ratio. The Survey has been mailed and is due back to DMR no later than March 12th. The Council also discussed other methods to control or limit entry to the fishery. In order to help the Zone Council process further improve and evaluate opinions, Zone D Council has also mailed a questionnaire to solicit public input for future discussion and recommendations. The questions are for informational purposes only and are not part of the Zone D Exit Ratio Survey. Their next meeting is scheduled for March 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the Rockland Ferry Terminal to discuss the results of the Survey and 3 Informational Questions. Additionally, the Council has also prepared and mailed out a recent Zone D Newsletter entitled *Zone D-Scuttlebutt*.

**Zone E:** Zone E met on January 21st primarily to discuss upcoming legislation. Specific discussions included LD 207—An Act to Limit Lobster Management Zones to State Coastal Waters and the proposed Zone E Council Authorities and the proposed Non-Commercial Lobster & Crab License Entry Criteria. Both of Zone E's proposals have been combined into LD 703—An Act To Change the Options for a Lobster Management Zone and To Change Entry Criteria for Noncommercial Licenses.

**Zone F:** Zone F met on February 25th. Agenda items included the 2003 New Zone Entrants for Limited-Entry Lobster Zones and new Legislation. Sonny Sprague gave an Aquaculture presentation. Information was handed out on Marine Patrol's Regenerated Flipper Informational Overview, CruiseMaine Coalition – 2003 Ship Schedule and the Portland Pipe Line Corporation – Final Project Report – Lobster Resource Mitigation. Zone F is scheduled to have a Zone Council Meeting on March 11th at the Harrison Middle School in Yarmouth at 7:00 p.m. The meeting's focus will be to collect comments on any pending legislation.

**Zone G:** The Zone G Council met on January 9th to discuss the Dynamic Area Management Closure on Jeffrey's Ledge, the F&G Double Tagging Issue and New Legislation, specifically the 3-mile authority.

For more information concerning the meeting dates and/or other issues, please contact your local zone council representative, Sarah Cotnoir at the DMR at 624-6596, or the DMR web page at [www.maine.gov/dmr](http://www.maine.gov/dmr).

### *Continuation of the Zone E and F Boundary Dispute*

Déjà vu; Over the last several years representatives and members of Lobster Zone Councils E have requested Zone F to change the boundary line in order to more accurately reflect Small Point historical fishing grounds. Zone Council representatives and members of Zones E and F met, but were unable to agree upon a new line. In 2001, the Zone E Council petitioned the Commissioner to hold a public hearing to move the boundary line west. After a public hearing, the Commissioner supported the proposed move, however, the DMR Advisory Council rejected the amendment. Following the year's passage as required by the Zone E By-Laws, the Zone E Council again petitioned the Commissioner to consider the same proposed amendment.

A second public hearing was held on December 9, 2002. The Commissioner balanced comments received by a number of Council representatives and fishermen of both Zones, and then proposed a compromise that the Zonal boundary line within the 3-mile limit be moved to the west and then follow the 3-mile line easterly to the existing line.

The proposed rule was presented and discussed at the January DMR Advisory Council meeting. The vote was 5 in favor, 1 against and 4 abstentions. However, while reviewing another proposed rule prior to the boundary discussion, a Council member quoted 12 MRSA §6024(4) Council Actions, "*An affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting or polled shall be required for any action. No action may be considered unless a quorum is present or, if there is no meeting, a quorum responds to a written poll*". The end result of this change in the dynamics of the Council voting process, where an abstained vote is now considered a negative vote, was that the motion did not pass.

At the February Advisory Council meeting, the Council voted to reconsider the proposed boundary at their March meeting, and to require all members to vote either for or against. Stay tuned to March 19th for (perhaps) the final resolution.

### *Double Tagging in Zone G*

The proposal to double tag all non-Zone G traps in Zone G waters continues to be a very hotly debated issue in western Maine. Zone G fishermen have repeatedly voiced concerns that the current limited-entry law needs to be more enforceable, particularly the requirement that requires one to fish a majority of their traps in a limited-entry zone. The Department has attempted to mitigate these concerns through discussions and meetings with Zone representatives, however, there has been no consensus for a resolution reached.

Marine Patrol has maintained that implementation of a double tag system is the most efficient method to effectively address this enforcement issue. Consequently, there was a double tagging proposal brought to public hearing in Scarborough last September. Based on the comments received that winter fishing grounds were the primary area of concern, the Department determined that it was necessary to more accurately identify the specific time and location.

The proposed rule was modified to define that "all non-Zone G lobster fishers who fish in Zone G would be required to obtain a second tag issued at cost from the Department to place on traps fished in Zone G during the months of November through February each year", and a second public hearing was held on January 23rd at the Scarborough Town Hall. There was universal opposition from Zone F representatives as well as from several Zone G representatives who favored a year round requirement. Marine Patrol maintained their position that a double tag system for the specific area in which this alleged problem occurs would be the most efficient method to effectively address this enforcement issue. Stand by for the Commissioner's decision.

### *Gray Zone Update*

DMR, NMFS and six Downeast lobstermen have begun the formal process of negotiating with DFO and six Canadian lobstermen for a resolution to the Gray Area lobster fishery issues. According to the Terms of Reference developed by NMFS and DFO, the working group's objective is to "explore management opportunities, consistent with existing conservation objectives, that would enhance bilateral collaboration on management in the lobster fishery (complimentary management), and that would operate without prejudice to either country's sovereign claim." The first meeting was held in Bangor on February 5th. As can be expected, there was no unanimous opinion on either side concerning any one approach. The next meeting is scheduled in March in St. Stephen, N.B.

### *Limited Entry Discussion in Lobster Zone A*

The Zone A Lobster Zone Council met at University of Maine in Machias on Feb 13th, along with approximately 170 interested Zone A lobstermen (and potential lobstermen) to discuss the potential for limited entry in Zone A. Although there was some discussion at their January meeting about considering closing Zone A to open entry, there was very little Council or community support to begin the limited entry exit/entry ratio process. The Council voted 6-1 to kill the entry ratio discussion, however, they voted to investigate the apprentice options currently available to Zone C which allow the Zone to modify its apprentice program, making it more difficult to qualify as a new entrant, without establishing an entry/exit ratio. Any single or combination of the following provisions may be voted upon by a Zone-wide referendum:

- increase the length of time an apprentice must be enrolled in the apprentice program up to a maximum of 5 years;
- require that a sponsor of an apprentice to have held a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license for at least 5 years;
- require an apprentice training program that consists of course work on current laws and rules and principles of fishing;
- require that an apprentice may only enter the Zone if the apprentice apprenticed in the Zone;
- establish a one-year, 2-year or 3-year waiting period for transferees to transfer into the Zone.



### *Swans Island*

The Swans Island Trap Committee voted to request that a questionnaire be conducted in order to solicit Swans Island Conservation Zone licensee input on potential trap limit changes. The results will be used by the Swans Island Trap Committee to determine whether or not to submit a letter to the Commissioner requesting that a referendum be conducted in order to determine a new Swans Island Conservation Zone Trap limit. The questions polled Swans Island licensee support for maintaining or changing the tag limit, potential new tag limit numbers and specific areas where the new tags may be fished. The questionnaires have just been returned to the Department with a voting response of 70%. The results were 2-1 not in favor of changing the current limit of 475, and the final tallies have been provided to the Committee so that they may meet to discuss the results.

### *Boothbay Lobster Trap Tax*

According to the Boothbay Code Enforcement Officer and Assessor, all Boothbay commercial fishermen will soon be asked to declare their business personal property used in their fishing operations (including traps, rope, nets, floats, etc.) in order to be assessed a tax. Although this is a new tax for Boothbay fishermen, this is not a new tax in Maine. Currently, Gouldsboro, Camden and Steuben already tax their fishermen. The issue was raised as an equity concern by another Boothbay businessman who complained that lobstermen weren't required to pay a tax like other businesses. The Town of Boothbay will request that fishermen declare personal property value on all equipment used in their business operations each spring. However, under the State business tax program, reimbursement is granted for any new equipment until it's twelve years old. Given that most fishing gear doesn't last that long, it seems to make little sense to pay the Town and then request a reimbursement from the State.

### *2002 Preliminary Lobster Landings by County & Zone as of February 19, 2003*

	Cumberland	Hancock	Knox	Lincoln	Sagadahoc	Waldo	Washington	York	Grand Total
<b>Pounds</b>	7,337,131.50	13,602,768.10	19,033,690.02	4,968,062.98	1,692,835.00	22,586.00	7,270,205.41	3,225,117.57	57,152,396.58
<b>Value</b>	\$23,626,069.20	\$46,187,720.20	\$61,416,116.56	\$15,578,202.97	\$5,560,192.25	\$95,990.50	\$24,819,073.10	\$11,219,493.39	\$188,502,858.18
	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Zone F	Zone G	Unspecified	Grand Total
<b>Pounds</b>	7,840,042.41	7,994,321.16	11,119,090.96	13,517,118.00	4,538,243.98	8,400,406.00	3,504,646.07	238,528.00	57,152,396.58
<b>Value</b>	\$26,866,657.66	\$27,563,178.04	\$36,207,145.89	\$43,348,817.32	\$14,399,503.43	\$27,138,043.81	\$12,131,427.03	\$848,085.00	\$188,502,858.18

*The total landings may possibly reflect the increased effort by DMR to collect voluntary landings from some lobster dealers; caution is advised when comparing these numbers to previous years. To date, the reporting compliance for 2002 is estimated at 70%. However, of the remaining 30%, we do not know which dealers buy from harvesters and which buy from other dealers. The percent increase in landings from dealers who reported in both 2001 and 2002 is an estimated 12%.*

*For further information, contact Heidi Bray at (207) 633-9504 or [heidi.bray@maine.gov](mailto:heidi.bray@maine.gov)*

*Lobster Zone Council Elections*

Next month the annual Lobster Zone Council Election process will be underway. The Maine Sea Grant and the Cooperative Extension programs will be helping again this year to make the elections more visible. Nomination letters, along with a list of names to select from, will be mailed to the license holders in districts that have seats up for election.

Nominations are being sought for the following 27 District Seats:

**Current Council Member**

<b>Zone A</b>	District 1	Cutler, Trescott, Lubec	Norbert Lemieux
	District 5	Addison, S. Addison, Eastern Harbor	Sidney Farren
	District 8	Gouldsboro, Prospect, Birch Harbor	Colby Young, Sr.
<b>Zone B</b>	District 4	Southwest Harbor	Robert Higgins
	District 5	Bass Harbor	George Dow, Jr.
	District 6	Swans Island	Carlton Joyce
<b>Zone C</b>	District 1	Surry, Blue Hill, Brooklin, Sedgwick, Sargentville, Brooksville	David Tarr
	District 2	Little Deer Isle, Brooksville, Deer Isle, Cape Rosier, Eagle Island	Christopher Bates
	District 4	Deer Isle, Stonington	Leroy Weed, Jr.
<b>Zone D</b>	District 2	Round Pond, Muscongus Bay	Alan Poland
	District 3	Friendship	Philip Bramhall
	District 7	Spruce Head, South Thomaston	Woodbury Post
<b>Zone E</b>	District 3	Boothbay, Trevett, Edgecomb	Tyler Hodgdon
	District 4	Southport Island, Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor	Guy Randlett
	District 7	E. Boothbay, Littler River to Back Narrows	Sheldon Burnham
	District 9	S. Bristol	John Seiders
	District 10	Bristol, Pemaquid Harbor	Mark Cheney
<b>Zone F</b>	District 1	Portland Harbor, Portland, S. Portland, Scarborough, Gorham, Buxton, Gray, New Gloucester, Windham, Peaks Island, Cape Elizabeth	Frank Strout
	District 6	Harpwell, Freeport, Brunswick	Maurice Moody
	District 7	Harpwell, Orrs Island, Baileys Island	Carl Anderson, Jr.
	District 7	Harpwell, Quahog Bay to Pott's Point	Sheldon Morse, Jr.
<b>Zone G</b>	District 3	Kittery Point	Bradford Parady
	District 8	Kennebunkport, Kennebunk	Norman Nunan, Jr.
	District 9	Biddeford Pool between Cape Porpoise & Camp Ellis	James Alwin, III
	District 10	Camp Ellis, Saco River	James Henderson
	District 11	Scarborough, Old Orchard, Saco, Gorham	David Provencher
	District 13	Cape Neddick	Scott Simmons, Sr.

The Lobster Zone Management Councils play an important role in Maine's lobster management. Your district representative will be helping to guide Maine's contribution to lobster management with the State Legislature, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Each district position is for a 3-year term.

Each District Representative within the Lobster Zone represents anywhere from approximately 25–125 Class I, II, or III lobster license holders. The District Representative is responsible for listening to the concerns of the license holders in his/her district and bringing those concerns to the Lobster Management Policy Council meetings. He/she is also responsible for bringing information from the Zone Council meetings to his/her members to get their input on ideas being discussed.

Duties include:

- Attending a minimum of four Lobster Management Policy Council meetings;
- Contributing to Council discussions and representing District concerns/issues; and
- Sharing information with district members through informal talks or district meetings.

In May, the nominees will be confirmed, and then ballots will be mailed to commercial lobster license holders in the districts with seats up for election. Winners will be announced at the end of June.

### *Atlantic Halibut 2003 Endorsement Information*

In 2002, the Department of Marine Resources implemented regulations for the harvest of Atlantic halibut in state waters. Pursuant to Chapter 34 of the Marine Resources Regulations, first time endorsement holders must attend a mandatory training session. The training sessions are free of charge, and DMR provides all materials. Information covered includes, the regulations for halibut fishing in state waters, and instructions on tagging sublegal fish and extracting otolith samples. You must notify DMR of your intent to obtain a 2003 halibut endorsement before March 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you received halibut tags last year and do not plan to use them, please return them back to the Department of Marine Resources. If you would like tags, you can pick them up at the training sessions or by calling 633-9535.

There are four sessions scheduled for 2003:

Rockland	March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Ferry Terminal	6 pm
Portland	March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Marine Trade Center	6 pm
Machias	March 10 <sup>th</sup>	UM Science Building	6 pm
Ellsworth	March 11 <sup>th</sup>	City Hall	6 pm

If you cannot make any of these meetings, the only alternative is scheduling a session at the DMR lab in Boothbay Harbor prior to March 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Tag Return Update**

Sublegal halibut (<36 inches) have been tagged since 2000 as part of an experimental fishery and voluntary state waters effort. A total of 13 tagged fish have been recovered, ten of those were recaptured in 2002. Four of the returned tags came from Canadian waters: three off Cape Sable, Nova Scotia and one off Port Au Basque, Newfoundland.

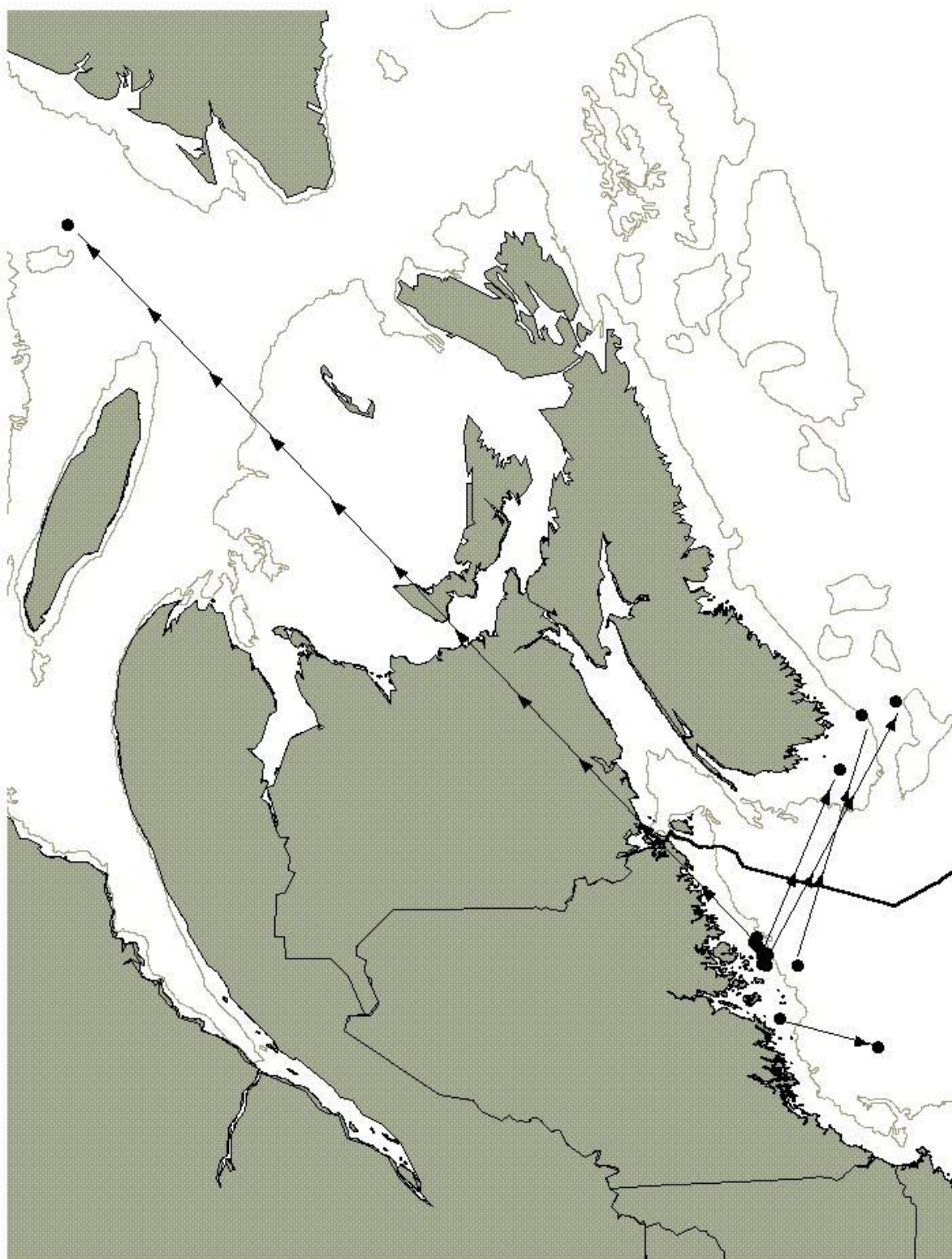
**See Map on Next Page (page 11)** →

Please keep an eye out for tagged halibut and report the tag number with the fish length, date and location of capture (even if you release it).

For more information please contact Kohl Kanwit at 633-9535 or [kohl.kanwit@maine.gov](mailto:kohl.kanwit@maine.gov).









*Joint Standing Committee on  
Marine Resources  
121<sup>st</sup> Legislature 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session*

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### *2003 Marine Resources Legislation*

Here is a list of titles before the Marine Resources Committee this session. The Committee intends to wait for all of the lobster bills to be printed, and to schedule a single public hearing for them to be heard.

#### **Aquaculture**

LD 272	Lemoine	An Act to Expand Aquaculture Site Location Criteria to Include Aesthetic Impact and Property Value Changes
LD 882	Kaelin	An Act to Transfer Certain Authority from the Department of Marine Resources to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources
LD 648	Eder	An Act Clarifying Municipalities' Authority to Assign Mooring Permits
LR 1572	Sullivan	Resolve, Establishing a Study Group to Improve Planning and Management for Multiple Uses of Maine Water
LD 271	Sullivan	An Act to Improve the Guidance by the Commissioner of Marine Resources for Granting Aquaculture Leases

#### **Aquaculture – Licensing**

LR 1008	Lemoine	An Act to Improve the Guidance to the Commissioner of Marine Resources for Granting Marine Aquaculture Leases
LD 1001	Edmonds	An Act to Modify the Criteria for Approval of Aquaculture Leases
LR 1493	Edmonds	Resolve, To Create a Study Committee to Consider Bay Management Planning
LD 939	Kaelin	An Act to Repeal the Fee on Aquaculture Salmon Production

#### **Commercial Fishing – Fees**

LR 953	Kaelin	An Act to Repeal the Finfish Growers Fee
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#### **Commercial Fishing – Management Zones**

LR 1610	Damon	An Act to Increase the Trap Limit for Swans Island Fishermen to the Maximum Lobster Traps Allowed in the Lobster Management Council Zone B
LR 1614	Damon	An Act Related to Aquaculture Leases in Blue Hill Bay

#### **Commercial Fishing – Practices**

LD 106	Tardy	An Act Regarding Alewife Harvesting
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#### **Lobsters – Licensing**

LD 835	Pellon	An Act to Allow a Select Group of Former Lobstermen to Obtain Lobster Fishing Licenses
LD 169	Bowles	An Act to Waive the Apprenticeship Requirement for a Lobster and Crab Fishing License
LD 276	Ash	An Act to Allow the Sale of Lobster Licenses to Individuals Approved by the Department of Marine Resources
LD 277	Ash	An Act to Amend the Eligibility Requirements for a Lobster and Crab License
LD 900	Savage	An Act Regarding Eligibility for a License to Harvest Marine Organisms for a Person Who Served in the United States Armed Forces of Coast Guard
LD 591	Bromley	An Act Regarding Requirements for Obtaining a Lobster License
LD 1040	Lemoine	An Act to Ensure an Equitable Allocation of Federal Sport Fish Restoration Funding Between Saltwater and Freshwater Fisheries Projects
Dept Bill		An Act Concerning Age Requirements for Student, Apprentice and Noncommercial Lobster Licenses

**Lobsters – Management Zones**

- LD 703 Honey An Act to Change the Options for a Lobster Management Zone and To Change Entry Criteria for Noncommercial Licenses
- LD 207 Percy An Act to Limit Lobster Management Zones to State Coastal Waters

**Marine Resources Dept – Development**

- LR 1007 Lemoine An Act Establishing a Study Group to Improve the Planning and Management for Multiple Uses of Marine Waters in Maine

**Marine Resources Dept – Research**

- LD 364 Kaelin An Act To Provide Funding for the Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research and Education

**Marine Resources Dept – Rules**

- LD 70 Fletcher Resolve, To Provide for the Effective Implementation of Anadromous Fish Restoration on the Upper Kennebec River System
- LD 1016 Fletcher Resolve, Direct Certain State Agencies to Renegotiate an Agreement Regarding Dams on the Sebasticook River
- LD 544 Bennet An Act to Improve Rights to Marine Resources

**Sea Urchins**

- LR 1455 Dugay An Act Concerning the Sea Urchin Industry

**Shellfish – Clams**

- LD 871 Trahan An Act to Amend the Shellfish Harvesting Laws Regarding Closed Areas for Clam Digging

**Shellfish – Scallops**

- LD 81 Honey An Act to Increase the Minimum Ring Size of Legal Scallops

**Shellfish – Shellfish Toxins Program**

- LD 598 Lemont An Act to Protect the Public From Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning
- LD 1003 Lemont An Act to Protect the Public from Floodwater Contamination of Shellfish

**Other**

- LD 38 Brennan Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect the Commercial Fishing Industry
- LR 1259 Brennan An Act to Protect Maine's Coastal Waters
- LD 280 Bunker An Act to Clarify the Jurisdiction of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources
- LR 1053 Cowger An Act to Clarify the Responsibilities of the Department of Environmental Protection
- LD 402 Damon An Act to Reduce the Tax Paid on Mahogany Quahogs
- LR 1387 Fletcher An Act to Provide for Local Approval of Existing or Former Hydropower Projects to Enable Prioritization of Renewable Indigenous Energy Generation in Maine
- LD 91 Goodwin An Act to Create the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife
- LR 565 Goodwin An Act to Allow the Town of Dennysville to Sue the State and the Atlantic Salmon Authority
- LD 173 Lemoine An Act to Provide for the Passage of Anadromous Fish Species into Little River
- LD 109 Tardy An Act to Exempt from Tax State Mandated Fish Passage Facilities
- LR 429 Twomey An Act to Increase the Viability of a Natural Resource-Based Industry

**CruiseMaine Coalition - 2003 Ship Schedule**

Date: 2/04/03

**KEY**

Maiden Voyage











Conducting a Home Port Operation

Town Pier, Harbor Place - Bar Harbor Piers

POT, Maine State Pier, IMT-Portland Piers

<u>Date of Call</u>	<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Port Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Port/Location</u>
<b>MAY</b>				
5/9/2003-5/15/03	Amistad	Fri-Thurs.	tbd	Maine State Pier
5/12/03	Astor	Monday	7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	
5/13/03	Norwegian Sea	Tuesday	10:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Harbor Place
5/13/03	Adonia	Tuesday	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Harbor Place
5/20/03	Norwegian Sea	Tuesday	10:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Harbor Place
5/27/03	Rotterdam	Tuesday	8:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.	POT-Pier 1
5/27/03	Norwegian Sea	Tuesday	10:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Harbor Place
5/28/03	Rotterdam	Wednesday	7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Harbor Place
<b>8 calls</b>				
<b>JUNE</b>				
6/3/03	Norwegian Sea	Tuesday	10:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Harbor Place
6/4/03	Norwegian Sea	Wednesday	8:00 a.m.- tbd	POT-Pier 1
6/12/03	Nantucket Clipper	Thursday	7 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Town Pier Place
6/13/03	Rotterdam	Friday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
6/15/03	Rotterdam	Sunday	7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Harbor Place
6/27/03	Rotterdam	Friday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
6/29/03	Rotterdam	Sunday	7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Harbor Place
<b>7 calls</b>				
<b>JULY</b>				
7/2/03	Regal Empress	Wednesday	tbd	POT-Pier 1
7/11/03	Rotterdam	Friday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
7/16/03	Regal Empress	Wednesday	tbd	POT-Pier 1
7/19/03	American Eagle	Sat	tbd	Maine State Pier
7/19/03-7/20/03	American Eagle	Sat/Sunday	4:00 p.m. Sat.- 7:00 a.m. Sun.	Castine
7/20/03-7/21/03	American Eagle	Sunday/Monday	12:00 noon Sun.- 12:00 p.m. Monday	Bar Harbor
7/21/03-7/23/03	American Eagle	Monday/Wed.	6:00 p.m. Mon - 7:00 a.m. Wed.	Rockland/Bath
7/23/03	Regal Empress	Wednesday	tbd	POT-Pier 1
7/23/03-7/24/03	American Eagle	Wed./Thurs.	9:00 a.m. Wed. (anchor) - 8:00 a.m. Thurs.	Camden
7/24-7/25/2003	American Eagle	Thursday/Fri.	11:00 a.m. Thurs. - 8:30 a.m. Fri.	Belfast
7/25/03	American Eagle	Fri	tbd	Bangor
7/26/03	American Eagle	Sat	10:00 a.m. embark/1:00 depart	Bangor
7/26/03-7/27/03	American Eagle	Saturday/Sunday	4:00 p.m. Sat.- 7:00 a.m. Sun.	Castine
7/27/03-7/28/03	American Eagle	Sunday/Monday	12:00 noon Sun.- 12:00 p.m. Monday	Bar Harbor
7/28/03-7/30/2003	American Eagle	Monday/Wed.	6:00 p.m. Mon - 7:00 a.m. Wed.	Rockland/Bath
7/30/2003-7/31/03	American Eagle	Wednesday/Thurs.	9:00 a.m. Wed. (anchor) - 8:00 a.m. Thurs.	Camden
7/31/2003-8/1/03	American Eagle	Thursday/Fri.	11:00 a.m. Thurs. - 8:30 a.m. Fri.	Belfast
<b>16 calls</b>				
<b>AUGUST</b>				
8/1/03	American Eagle	Fri	arrive 12:00 noon	Bangor
8/2/03	American Eagle	Sat	10:00 a.m. embark/1:00 depart	Bangor
8/2/03-8/3/2003	American Eagle	Saturday/Sunday	4:00 p.m. Sat.- 7:00 a.m. Sun.	Castine
8/3/03-8/4/2003	American Eagle	Sunday/Monday	12:00 noon Sun.- 12:00 p.m. Monday	Bar Harbor
8/4/03-8/6/2003	American Eagle	Monday/Wed.	6:00 p.m. Mon - 7:00 a.m. Wed.	Rockland/Bath
8/6/2003-8/7/03	American Eagle	Wednesday/Thurs.	9:00 a.m. Wed. (anchor) - 8:00 a.m. Thurs.	Camden
8/6/03	Regal Empress	Wednesday	tbd	POT-Pier 1
8/7/2003-8/8/03	American Eagle	Thursday/Fri.	11:00 a.m. Thurs. - 8:30 a.m. Fri.	Belfast
8/8/03	American Eagle	Fri	arrive 12:00 noon	Bangor

8/9/03 	American Eagle	Sat	10:00 a.m. embark/1:00 depart	Bangor
8/9/03-8/10/2003	American Eagle	Saturday/Sunday	4:00 p.m. Sat.- 7:00 a.m. Sun.	Castine
8/10/2003-8/11/03	American Eagle	Sunday/Monday	12:00 noon Sun.- 12:00 p.m. Monday	Bar Harbor
8/11/03-8/13/03	American Eagle	Monday/Wed.	6:00 p.m. Mon - 7:00 a.m. Wed.	Rockland/Bath
8/13/2003-8/14/03	American Eagle	Wednesday/Thurs.	9:00 a.m. Wed. (anchor) - 8:00 a.m. Thurs.	Camden
8/13/03	Regal Empress	Wednesday	tbd	POT-Pier 1
8/14/2003-8/15/03	American Eagle	Thursday/Fri.	11:00 a.m. Thurs. - 8:30 a.m. Fri.	Belfast
8/15/03	American Eagle	Fri	arrive 12:00 noon	Bangor
8/16/03 	American Eagle	Sat	10:00 a.m. embark/1:00 depart	Bangor
8/16/03-8/17/2003	American Eagle	Saturday/Sunday	4:00 p.m. Sat.- 7:00 a.m. Sun.	Castine
8/17/03-8/18/2003	American Eagle	Sunday/Monday	12:00 noon Sun.- 12:00 p.m. Monday	Bar Harbor
8/18/03-8/20/03	American Eagle	Monday/Wed.	6:00 p.m. Mon - 7:00 a.m. Wed.	Rockland/Bath
8/20/03-8/21/03	American Eagle	Wednesday/Thurs.	9:00 a.m. Wed. (anchor) - 8:00 a.m. Thurs.	Camden
8/20/03	Regal Empress	Wednesday	tbd	POT-Pier 1
8/21/03-8/22/03	American Eagle	Thursday/Fri.	11:00 a.m. Thurs. - 8:30 a.m. Fri.	Belfast
8/22/03	American Eagle	Fri	arrive 12:00 noon	Bangor
8/23/03	American Eagle	Sat	10:00 a.m. embark/1:00 depart	Bangor
8/23/03-8/24/03	American Eagle	Saturday/Sunday	4:00 p.m. Sat.- 7:00 a.m. Sun.	Castine
8/24/03-8/25/03	American Eagle	Sunday/Monday	12:00 noon Sun.- 12:00 p.m. Monday	Bar Harbor
8/25/03-8/27/03	American Eagle	Monday/Wed.	6:00 p.m. Mon - 7:00 a.m. Wed.	Rockland/Bath
8/27/03	Regal Empress	Wednesday	tbd	POT-Pier 1
8/27/03-8/28/03	American Eagle	Wednesday/Thurs.	9:00 a.m. Wed. (anchor) - 8:00 a.m. Thurs.	Camden
8/28/03-8/29/03	American Eagle	Thursday/Fri.	11:00 a.m. Thurs. - 8:30 a.m. Fri.	Belfast
8/29/03	American Eagle	Fri	arrive 12:00 noon	Bangor
8/30/03 	American Eagle	Sat	10:00 a.m. embark/1:00 depart	Bangor
8/30/03-8/31/03	American Eagle	Saturday/Sunday	4:00 p.m. Sat.- 7:00 a.m. Sun.	Castine
<b>30 calls</b>				
<b>SEPT</b>				
8/31/03-9/1/03	American Eagle	Sunday/Monday	12:00 noon Sun.- 12:00 p.m. Monday	Bar Harbor
9/1/2003-9/3/03	American Eagle	Monday/Wed.	6:00 p.m. Mon - 7:00 a.m. Wed.	Rockland/Bath
9/2/03 	<i>Crystal Symphony</i>	Tuesday	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/3/03-9/4/03	American Eagle	Wednesday/Thurs.	9:00 a.m. Wed. (anchor) - 8:00 a.m. Thurs.	Camden
9/4/03-9/5/03	American Eagle	Thursday/Fri.	11:00 a.m. Thurs. - 8:30 a.m. Fri.	Belfast
9/3/03	<i>Galaxy</i>	Wednesday	11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/5/03	American Eagle	Fri	arrive 12:00 noon	Bangor
9/6/03 	American Eagle	Sat	10:00 a.m. embark/1:00 depart	Bangor
9/6/03-9/7/03	American Eagle	Saturday/Sunday	4:00 p.m. Sat.- 7:00 a.m. Sun.	Castine
9/7/03-9/8/03	American Eagle	Sunday/Monday	12:00 noon Sun.- 12:00 p.m. Monday	Bar Harbor
9/7/03	<i>Regal Princess</i>	Sunday	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/8/03	Carnival Victory	Monday	8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	POT-Pier 1
9/8/03	<i>Crystal Symphony</i>	Monday	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/8/03-9/10/03	American Eagle	Monday/Wed.	6:00 p.m. Mon - 7:00 a.m. Wed.	Rockland/Bath
9/10/03-9/11/03	American Eagle	Wednesday/Thurs.	9:00 a.m. Wed. (anchor) - 8:00 a.m. Thurs.	Camden
9/10/03	Clipper Adventurer	Tuesday	tbd	Camden
9/10/03	Celebrity Galaxy	Wednesday	12:00 - 5:00 p.m.	POT-Pier 1
9/10/03 	<i>Oriana</i>	Wednesday	8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/11/03	<i>Nantucket Clipper</i>	Thursday	7 a.m. - 11 p.m.	Town Pier
9/11/03-9/12/03	American Eagle	Thursday/Fri.	11:00 a.m. Thurs. - 8:30 a.m. Fri.	Belfast
9/12/03	Nantucket Clipper	Friday	tbd	Camden
9/12/03	American Eagle	Friday	tbd	Bangor
9/13* 	American Eagle	Saturday	tbd	Bangor * Southbound
9/13/03	Grandeur of the Seas	Saturday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	POT-Pier 1
9/15/03	Carnival Victory	Monday	8:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.	POT-Pier 1
9/15/03	Grandeur of the Seas	Monday	8 a.m. -5 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/17/03	Regal Empress	Wednesday	tbd	Pot-Pier 1
9/17/03 	<i>Crown Odyssey</i>	Wednesday	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/20/03	<i>Rotterdam</i>	Saturday	8 a.m. - 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/20/03	Grandeur of the Seas	Saturday	8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.	POT-Pier 1

9/21/03	<i>Regal Princess</i>	Sunday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/21/03	<i>Norwegian Dream</i>	Sunday	10 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/22/03	<i>Crystal Symphony</i>	Monday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/22/03	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	Monday	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/22/03	<i>Carnival Victory</i>	Monday	8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	POT-Pier 1
9/23/03	<i>Silver Whisper</i>	Tuesday	8a.m. – 11 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/24/03	<i>Galaxy</i>	Wednesday	11 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/25/03	<i>Regal Empress</i>	Wednesday	tbd	Pot-Pier 1
9/25/03	<i>Golden Princess</i>	Thursday	7 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/26/03	<i>Seabourn Pride</i>	Friday	8 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/27/03	<i>Regal Princess</i>	Saturday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/27/03	★ <i>Seven Seas Navigator</i>	Saturday	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/28/03	<i>Crown Odyssey</i>	Sunday	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Harbor Place
9/29/03	<i>Carnival Victory</i>	Monday	8:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.	POT-Pier 1
9/30/03	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	Tuesday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	POT-Pier 1
9/30/03	<i>Crystal Symphony</i>	Tuesday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place

**44 calls**
**OCT**

10/1/03	<i>Regal Empress</i>	Wednesday	tbd	IMT
10/1/03	<i>Celebrity Galaxy</i>	Wednesday	12:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Pot-Pier 1
10/1/03	<i>Norwegian Dream</i>	Wednesday	12 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/1/03	★ <i>Prinsendam</i>	Wednesday	9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/2/03	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	Thursday	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/2/03	<i>Golden Princess</i>	Thursday	7 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/3/03	<i>Norwegian Dream</i>	Friday	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/3/03	<i>Prinsendam</i>	Friday	7 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/4/03	<i>Rotterdam</i>	Saturday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/5/03	★ <i>Costa Romantica</i>	Sunday	9 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/8/03	<i>Seven Seas Navigator</i>	Wednesday	9 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/9/03	<i>Golden Princess</i>	Thursday	7 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/9/03	<i>Crown Odyssey</i>	Thursday	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/10/03	<i>Rotterdam</i>	Friday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/10/03	<i>Seabourne Pride</i>	Friday	8 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/10/03	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	Friday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	POT-Pier 1
10/11/03	<i>Crystal Symphony</i>	Saturday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/11/03	<i>Regal Princess</i>	Saturday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/12/03	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	Sunday	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/12/03	<i>Seven Seas Navigator</i>	Sunday	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/15/03	★ <i>Serenade of the Seas</i>	Wednesday	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/16/03	<i>Golden Princess</i>	Thursday	7 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/17/03	<i>Regal Princess</i>	Friday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/18/03	<i>Prinsendam</i>	Saturday	9 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/19/03	<i>Prinsendam</i>	Sun	7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Pot-Pier 1
10/20/03	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	Monday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	POT-Pier 1
10/20/03	<i>Crown Odyssey</i>	Monday	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/21/03	<i>Norwegian Dream</i>	Tuesday	12 p.m. – 7 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/22/03	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	Wednesday	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/23/03	★ <i>Braemer</i>	Thursday	1:00 p.m.- 11:00 p.m.	POT-Pier 1
10/24/03	<i>Rotterdam</i>	Friday	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/24/03	<i>Seven Seas Navigator</i>	Friday	9 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/29/03	<i>Regal Princess</i>	Wednesday	9 a.m. – 7 p.m.	Harbor Place
10/30/03	<i>Grandeur of the Seas</i>	Thursday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	POT-Pier 1

**34 calls**
**139 CALLS TOTAL FOR ENTIRE STATE OF MAINE**



**CruiseMaine**  
**Projected Total Number of Calls by Port/Destination**

Destination	Month						
	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct.	
Bangor	0	0	1	5	2	0	8
Bar Harbor	6	6	3	4	23	27	69
Belfast	0	0	2	4	2	0	8
Boothbay Harbor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camden	0	0	2	4	4	0	10
Castine	0	0	2	5	1	0	8
Eastport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penobscot Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portland- Freeport/Kennebunkport Tours	2	1	4	4	10	7	28
Rockland- Bath Tours	0	0	2	4	2	0	8
	8	7	16	30	44	34	139

*Thistle Marine Electronic Logbooks—Carl Wilson*

The first electronic logbook was installed in May 2000. Since that time, fishermen have counted nearly a million lobsters from Cutler to Massachusetts. This information is already providing valuable data on the spatial distribution and seasonal catch rates in the lobster fishery. As the program is established, we hope that electronic logbooks will be an essential component to DMR's lobster monitoring programs. We envision that electronic logbooks could be a valuable assessment tool, as information is collected daily and over a wide geographic range. We continue to seek new volunteers to participate in this exciting project. To date approximately 75 units have been distributed to fishermen from Maine to Massachusetts. The DMR will cover ALL COSTS associated with this program, including the cost of the box, installation and monthly fees. Your daily catch information can be accessed by a secure website at [www.thistlemarine.com](http://www.thistlemarine.com). For fishermen who worry about problems associated with counting every lobster from every trap, systematic sub-sampling can greatly reduce the time involved. As little as 25 traps everyday, over the course of the season, can provide a rich source of data. If you are interested in receiving an electronic logbook and collecting valuable data, please feel free to call (633-9538). Speak up and start counting!!

*Aerial Spraying— Brown Tail Moth*

**Brunswick votes not to spray!**

Good news from February 3rd Brunswick Town Council Meeting. The Council voted unanimously not to conduct an aerial spraying program with Dimilin.

**Freeport—More good news**

The Freeport Town Council voted unanimously February 4th not to conduct an aerial spray program. Many thanks to all of the lobstermen who spoke very professionally and persuasively at the meeting. Great job guys -- You really made a difference!

YARMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL, FEB 6TH & FEB 20TH With regards to the Thursday night Yarmouth Town Council Meeting at 7 pm (American Legion Log Cabin), the town office told me that this is a "workshop" meeting and no vote will be taken on the brown tail moth issue. They have a tight agenda and will be using the time to get educated on the issue.

As I understand it, the Yarmouth Town Council will then vote on the issue of aerially spraying on February 20th at their regular meeting. If you attend the meeting on Wednesday, February 6th, it is unlikely that you will have an opportunity to make public comment. However, they will accept written comments.

*Preliminary Lobster Data From the ME/NH Inshore Trawl Survey*

The survey began on Oct. 14, 2002 in New Hampshire waters and finished on Nov. 20, 2002 along the Canadian border. 81 out of 100 possible tows were completed. Cooperation was excellent in some areas and not as good in others. The survey crew would like to express gratitude to those lobstermen that helped by moving their gear and/or finding us alternate tow locations, especially those in Casco Bay, West Penobscot Bay, Corea, and Jonesport. It made this fall's survey run more smoothly. In Casco Bay, some people worked hard to move gear and were disappointed we could not complete that tow. It was a logistical problem that could have been corrected by better communication. We apologize to those that were affected. We hope to continue to work with fishermen to improve our communications and minimize the inconvenience created by conducting the survey. Compared to previous fall surveys, conflict with gear this year was minimal.

A total of 9131 lobsters were caught overall, 4623 females and 4508 males. That compares to a combined total of 8742 in fall 2001 and 8012 in fall 2000. 66 berried females were seen in these catches and 68% of those were caught between Port Clyde and the Schoodic peninsula. This number is a significant increase from 14 and 12 berried females caught in the fall of 2000 and 2001 respectively. 30 of the berried females were v-notched; the remaining ones were notched prior to release. The damage to lobsters caused by the operations of the survey was at 11.5%, which is down from the previous fall. Below is a table that shows the average catch of lobsters and the corresponding mean carapace length for each region and depth stratum along the coast. We will be presenting the survey data in more detail at the Maine Fishermen's Forum.

		Mean Number per Tow		Avg. Carapace Length (mm)	
		<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>
<b>Region 1</b>					
So. ME/NH	<20 fathoms	18.07	17.47	59.71	60.93
	21-35	17.73	19.53	64.11	65.48
	36-50+	1.73	2.13	82.77	76.75
<b>Region 2</b>					
Mid-Coast	<20 fathoms	59.53	58.71	64.02	63.78
	21-35	26.24	23.29	70.63	67.16
	36-50+	2.06	1.12	85.09	77.05
<b>Region 3</b>					
Penobscot Bay	<20 fathoms	18.53	20.41	69.38	69.74
	21-35	38.00	30.76	75.96	73.63
	36-50+	12.06	10.18	91.79	92.25
<b>Region 4</b>					
Mt. Desert Area	<20 fathoms	3.21	7.21	66.53	71.75
	21-35	11.79	15.29	70.13	71.22
	36-50+	22.93	14.50	83.43	81.02
<b>Region 5</b>					
Schoodic to Canada	<20 fathoms	20.67	27.44	60.49	62.16
	21-35	18.39	14.72	60.39	59.75
	36-50+	9.28	10.44	77.29	77.72

### Port Sampling

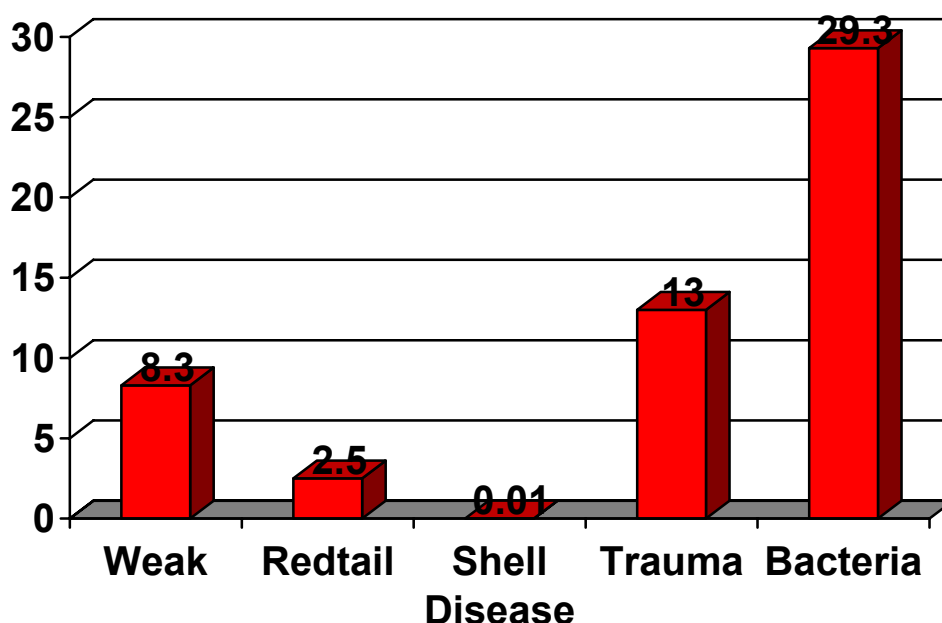
The findings from diagnostic, research and lobster port surveillance conducted from October 1998 through August 2002 have been compiled. The diagnostic and research efforts were funded by Maine LD 1502 with the help of Margaret Chase Smith interns.

Findings from port sampling indicate that the Maine lobster population appears healthy. Among the 1200 lobsters evaluated during port sampling, the percentage of "weak lobsters" was 8.3%. Shedders comprised 93.8% of the weak lobsters and were 6 times likely to be weak than hardshells. Levels of both shell disease and "Bumper Car" disease were well below 1%. "Redtail" or "Gaffkemia" was detected in 2.6% of landed lobsters and in 6.2% of lobsters.

Bacteria do not appear to be the primary cause of weak lobsters. Bacteria were detected in 29.3% of lobster examined at ports during 2000-2002 and in 43% of the lobsters submitted as weak lobsters in diagnostic cases. Normal "healthy" lobsters also exhibited bacteria.

Bacteria isolated from lobsters submitted as diagnostic cases were investigated in both molecular and clinical challenge trials. Results from DNA sequencing indicate that the primary isolates collected from moribund lobsters are *Hyphomicrobium indicum*. Furthermore, *H. indicum* appears to naturally be present in the hemolymph of lobsters as a predominant organism. None of the isolates were identified as *V. fluvialis*, a bacteria implicated as a cause of lobster mortality in other research. The virulence of *H. indicum* and *V. fluvialis* in lobsters was tested by injection into the hemolymph of  $10^3$ ,  $10^6$  and  $10^8$  colony forming units (CFU). *V. fischeri* was injected as a negative control. 75-100% mortality was observed within 24 hours with both *H. indicum* and *V. fluvialis* at  $10^8$  CFU. No mortalities were observed at  $10^6$  and  $10^3$  CFU with any of the isolates. Mortalities were not observed at lower concentrations (i.e.,  $10^3$  CFU) more typically expected from pathogens tested via injection.

Trauma or shell damage appears to have a significant adverse effect upon lobster health. Shell damage was observed in 13.0% of all lobsters sampled at ports and in 43.5% of lobsters submitted as diagnostic cases. Among lobsters submitted as diagnostic cases, lobsters with shell damage were twice as likely to be weak and to be infected with bacteria. Although not statistically significant, the prevalence of weak lobsters among port samples appeared higher among shell damaged lobsters (17.3%) than undamaged lobsters (11.8%). Shell damaged lobsters (0.543.3g) weighed consistently less than undamaged lobsters (577.8g) among lobsters sampled at ports and in lobsters presented as diagnostic cases.





STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
MARINE RESOURCES  
21 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

(207) 624-6550

This newsletter is available on the DMR Web Page at:  
<http://www.maine.gov/dmr> Click on Species Information, select Lobster

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### *Contact Numbers*

- DMR (Hallowell)	624-6550	- Marine Patrol Div. I	633-9595
- DMR Lab (Boothbay)	633-9500	- (NH border to St. Georges River)	
- DMR Lab (Lamoine)	667-5654	- Marine Patrol Div. II	667-3373
- Terry Stockwell	633-9556	- (St. Georges River to Canadian border)	
- Resource Mgmt Coord.		- Laura Ludwig	633-9513
- Sarah Cotnoir	624-6596	- Whale Take Reduction Coord.	
- Lobster Zone Adm. Asst.		- John Higgins	677-2316

### *Upcoming Meeting Dates*

**March 11** (7:00 p.m.)—  
Zone F meeting—Harrison  
Middle School, Yarmouth

**March 18** (6:30 p.m.)—  
Zone D meeting—Rockland  
Ferry Terminal

**March 19** (1:00 p.m.)—  
DMR Advisory Council  
meeting

**March 19** (5:00 p.m.)—  
Lobster Advisory Council  
meeting

**April 28-30**—Atlantic Large  
Whale Take Reduction  
Team meeting-Providence,  
RI.

